

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, OVIP (DENT, FREDERICK B.)

SUBJ: JAPANESE TRAVEL OF STR DENT

REF: STATE 130594

PASS STR FOR AMBASSADOR DENT

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SIGNALS FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS OF JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AMBASSADOR DENT ARRIVE TOKYO AFTERNOON JUNE 18 FOR TWO-DAY PROGRAM JUNE 19-20 DEPARTING 9:30 OR 10 P.M. JUNE 20. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GOJ CONCERNING NATIONAL FUNERAL FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER SATO HAVE BEEN SLOW IN SURFACING, NO DOUBT IN PART BECAUSE "NATIONAL" FUNERAL UNPRECEDENTED IN POST-WORLD WAR II PERIOD. WHILE IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD FROM 2 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. JUNE 16, IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER GOJ MINISTERS EXPECT TO PUT IN NORMAL WORK DAY APART FROM FUNERAL CEREMONY AND WHETHER DIET WILL RECESS FOR THE DAY. HARD INFO ALSO LACKING ON NUMBER AND RANK OF OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD AND WHETHER, IF SIGNIFICANT NUMBER ARRIVE, THEY WILL RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY OR EXPECT TO USE OPPORTUNITY OF VISIT TO JAPAN FOR OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING CALLS ON JAPANESE MINISTERS. GIVEN THIS CONTINUED STATE OF UNCERTAINTY, STAFF LEVELS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH FIRING UP AMBASSADOR DENT'S SCHEDULE HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW TO

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EMBASSY THAT BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR AMBASSADOR DENT TO PRO-

CEED WITH JUNE 16-17 PROGRAM AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. MORE SENIOR LEVELS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WHOM WE HAVE CONTACTED (A) AGREE WITH US THAT PUBLIC SPEECH BY DENT ON JUNE 16 WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE (THIS LUNCHEON ENGAGEMENT HAS NOW BEEN DEFERRED); (B) RECOGNIZE THERE IS SOME RISK THAT OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM ABROAD FOR FUNERAL MAY CONSUME MINISTERS' TIME REQUIRING LAST-MINUTE JUGGLING AND POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR DENT, AND (C) AGREE THAT AMBASSADOR DENT'S VISIT LIKELY RECEIVE CONSIDERABLY LESS PRESS ATTENTION (WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES OFFERS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE US INTERESTS) IF VISIT COINCIDES WITH NATIONAL FUNERAL AND VISIT OF OTHER FOREIGN DIGNITARIES.

3. ACCORDING TO TOKYO OFFICE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, WELLENSTEIN AND ABOUT 7 OTHER ACCOMPANYING EC OFFICIALS WILL BE HERE JUNE 16 THROUGH 19 WITHOUT CHANGE IN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED PROGRAM TO BE HEADED ON GOJ SIDE BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YOSHINO.

4. IF AMBASSADOR DENT'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS HE PLAN TO ARRIVE AFTERNOON JUNE 18 FOR TWO-DAY PROGRAM 19-20. ALTERNATIVELY, ARRIVAL AFTERNOON JUNE 17 FOR PROGRAM JUNE 18-19 WOULD BE OK. IF THESE DATES IMPOSSIBLE, SUGGEST AMB. DENT GIVE US SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES TO TAKE UP WITH GOJ. DATES TO BE AVOIDED IN ANY CASE ARE JUNE 23-24 WHEN JAPAN-CANADA MINISTERIAL MEETING BEING HELD HERE AS WELL AS DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING DIET RECESS JULY 4 WHEN GOJ MINISTERS WILL BE HEAVILY OCCUPIED. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
HODGSON

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